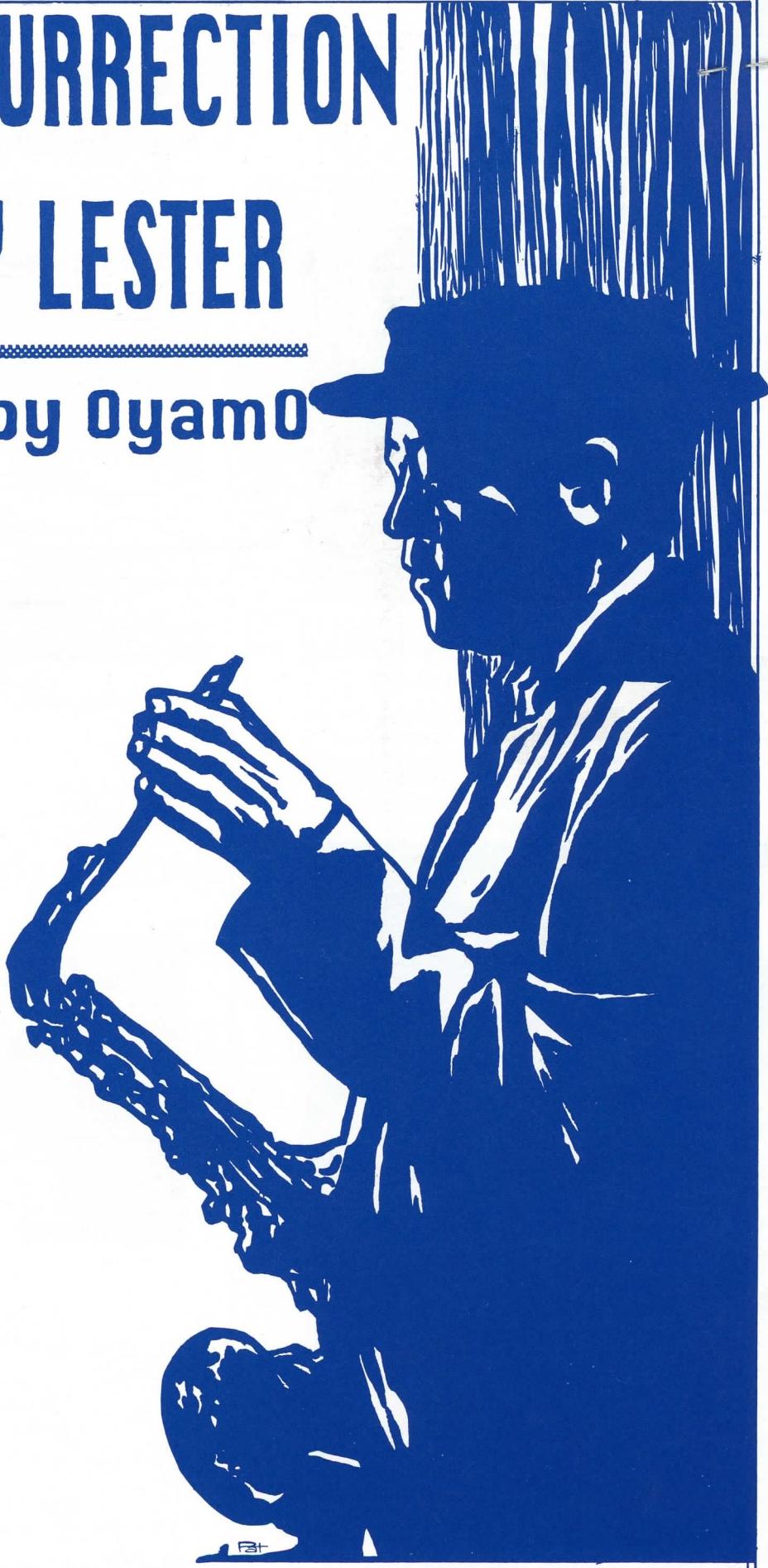


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by OyamO



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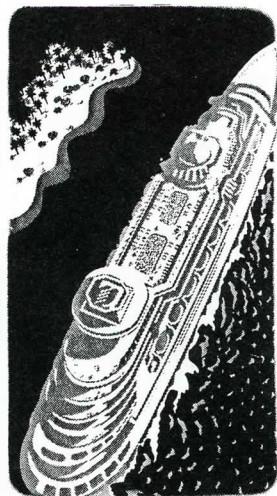
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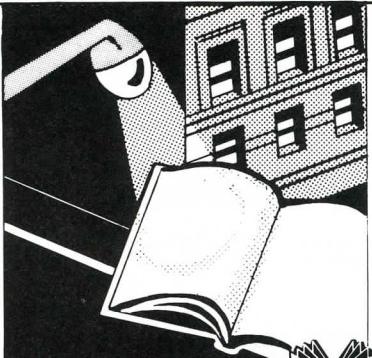
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(A PLAY IN TWO MOVEMENTS)

Playwright

OyamO

Director

Kate Mendeloff

Instrumental Music Director

Vincent York

Vocal Music Director

Stephen Newby

Choreographer

Linda A. Spriggs

Scenic Designer

Patricia Moore

Lighting Designer

Eric Fehlauer

Costume Designer

Karyl Newman

Stage Manager

Elena Goodhall

Sound Coordinator

Dave Vandervliet

SETTING

A hotel room, Alvin Hotel
52nd Street, New York City

March 15, 1959

— There will be one intermission. —

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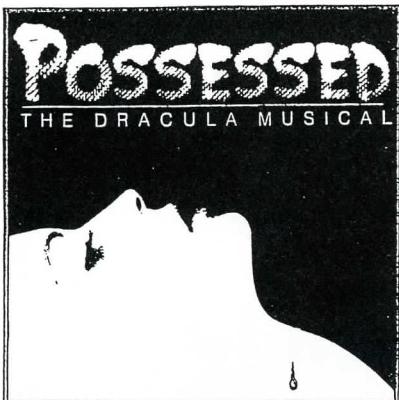
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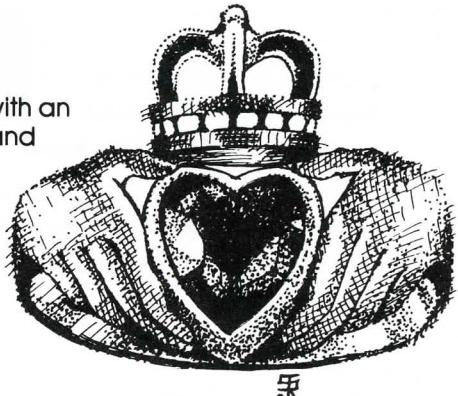


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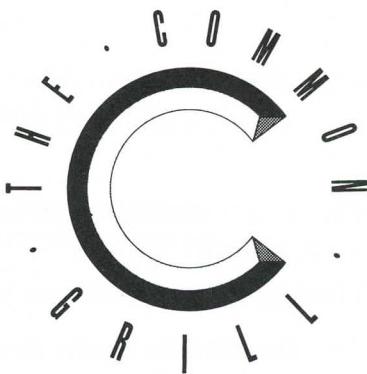
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The Cast

Lester Young	Charles Jackson
Lady In Black	Gerami Seitzman
Bohannon/Musician/Slump	Ali Babu Che Johnson
Sarah	Kenya Payne
Grand Marshall/Lincoln	Damon Gupton
Musican/Swoop/Tweed/Sergeant	Kevin Clayborn
Musician	James N. Campbell
Tuta	Angela Malaika Peaks
BooBoo/Sgt. Willis	Jiba Anderson
Miss Lady	Tonya Warren
Pooky/Mouse	Sam Prince
Barker/Manager/1st Lieutenant	Joshua Funk
Preacher/Dr. Tramb/Major	Andrew Newberg
Agatha	Aletha M. Edwards
Lady Day	Elise Bryant
White Marie	Whitney Allen

Musicians

Duane Harvey	drums
Donald Mayberry	bass
Gary Schunk	piano and synthesizer
Vincent York	tenor saxophone
David Froseth	tenor saxophone (Swoop scene)

Program Notes

Lester Willis Young was born August 27, 1909 in Woodville, Mississippi. He learned to play many instruments (including the alto sax) from his father, a musician who studied at Tuskegee Institute. Lester began his life as a musician in the Young family band, led by his father, which toured the Vaudeville circuit. At the age of eighteen he left to join Art Bronson's Bostonians, a Kansas City jazz band, where he switched from alto to tenor sax.

The switch would mark the beginning of his successful career. Lester created his own unique style of playing the saxophone by not only combining the delicate sounds of Frank Trumbauer and Bix Biederbecke, but also by holding his saxophone at a 45 degree angle when he played. Young's airy, laid back playing was not readily accepted by most jazz enthusiasts. However, he played briefly with Fletcher Henderson and became a star soloist with the Count Basie Orchestra. Once his style began to catch on and intrigue audiences, his popularity soared far beyond the reigning saxophone king, Coleman Hawkins. Lester soon became good friends with, and recorded with jazz singer Billie Holiday. These two voices created a unique musical dialogue. Young soon named Billie "Lady Day", and Billie referred to Lester as "Prez" - the president of all saxophonists.

Young was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1944. He was imprisoned for drug possession (a photo of Young's second white wife seems the more probable cause), and later given a dishonorable discharge. After this nightmare, the man and his music became more introverted but still powerful. He continued to affect the evolution of BeBop and cool jazz, yet Lester was also overwhelmed by the many young tenors who were imitating his style. He was now being replaced by a younger generation. Although he continued to play and make appearances, he began to drink heavily, and close himself off from others. Lester's last engagement was in Paris, and in less than 24 hours after returning to his New York hotel room he died, on March 15, 1959.

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About the Artists

OyamO (Charles F. Gordon) was born in Lorain, Ohio, in 1943. He has a BA from the College of New Rochelle, New York, and an MFA from the Yale School of Drama. He has received Rockefeller, Guggenheim, and Creative Artists Public Service program grants. OyamO was a founding member of the Black Theatre Workshop in Harlem (an arm of the now-defunct New Lafayette Theatre). Other credits include *His First Step* at the New York Shakespeare Festival, and *Three Red Falcons*, a screenplay written for Sidney Poitier and Harry Belafonte's Verdon/Cedric Productions. OyamO is currently working on a play about the Memphis sanitation strike of 1968 on commission for the Working Theatre, New York City.

Eric Fehlauer (*Lighting Designer*)

- Student in Department of Theatre and Drama
- Lighting designer, *Isabella, 3 Ships, and a Shyster*, Performance Network
- Lighting designer, *As You Like It*, University Players
- Assistant designer, *On Borrowed Time*, Pasadena, CA; *Fences*, Sarasota, FL

Charles A. Jackson (*Lester Young*)

- Assistant Professor, Department of Theatre and Drama
- Founder, African American Artists Unlimited Theatre Company
- Director, *Les Blancs*, *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, *The Mighty Gents*, University Players; *The Colored Museum*, UNLV; *Big River*, Grand Rapids' Circle Theatre; *Out at Sea*, Detroit Repertory Theatre
- Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, *The Meeting*, 1515 Broadway Theatre, Detroit

Kate Mendeloff (*Director*)

- Lecturer in Drama, Residential College; Adjunct lecturer, Dept. of Theatre and Drama
- Freelance Director, Center Stage, Baltimore; Arena Stage, Washington, D.C.; York & Albany Theatre, London
- Artistic Director, Tale Spinners Theatre, San Francisco
- Guest Director, Princeton and Yale Universities; on theater faculty, University of Maryland, San Francisco State

Patricia Maria Moore (*Scenic Designer*)

- Second year graduate student in scenic/costume design
- Scenic designer, Clarinet Concerto No. 1, *American Masterworks*, University Dance Company
- Production designer, *The Eumenides*, Arena Theatre
- Puppet Artist, *Owl and the Moon*, Wild Swan Theatre

Stephen Newby (*Vocal Music Director*)

- Instructor in composition, School of Music
- Music Director, Gospel Chorale, University of Michigan
- Composer for theatre productions, *The Mighty Gents*, *Trojan Women*
- Composer, Spiritual Fantasy No. 4

Karyl Newman (*Costume Designer*)

- Senior in theatrical design (B.F.A.)
- Costume designer, *Lysistrata*, RC Players
- Costume designer, *Mariken of Nimmeghen*, Harlotry Players
- Assistant costume designer on many university productions

Linda A. Spriggs (*Choreographer*)

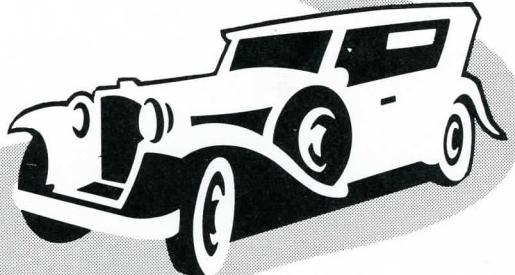
- Assistant Professor, U of M Department of Dance
- BFA, The Juilliard School; MFA, University of Michigan
- Principal dancer with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, the Joyce Trisler Danscompany, the Atlanta Ballet
- Soloist, *The Griot*, Kennedy Center, for the Lila Wallace/Reader's Digest Celebration of reknowned dance pioneer, Dr. Pearl Primus' fifty years in the field

Vincent York (*Instrumental Music Director*)

- Performed with the Duke Ellington Orchestra; Ray Charles Orchestra; and Marcus Belgrave Sextet
- Played with notable Detroit artists such as Roy Brooks, J.C. Heard, Jimmy Wilkins at the Montreux/Detroit Jazz Festival each year since its inception
- Formed group, *Vincent York's new York Force* in 1988; album release in 1990

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Whitney Allen (*White Marie*) Musical Theatre — sophomore — Wilmette, IL
Jiba Anderson (*BooBoo, Sgt. Willis*) Art — junior — Detroit, MI
Elise Bryant (*Lady Day*) Theatre — junior — Ann Arbor, MI
James N. Campbell (*Musician*) Communications — junior — Detroit, MI
Kevin Clayborn (*Tweed/Sergeant/Swoop/Musician*) Dance — junior — Ypsilanti, MI
Aletha M. Edwards (*Agatha*) Communications/Theatre — senior — Grand Rapids, MI
Joshua Funk (*Barker/Manager/1st Lieutenant*) Musical Theatre — sophomore — Chicago, IL
Damon Gupton (*Grand Marshall/Lincoln*) Musical Education — junior — Detroit, MI
Charles Jackson (*Lester Young*) Houston, TX
Ali Babu Che Johnson (*Bahannon/Musician/Slump*) Anthropology — senior — New York, NY
Andrew Newberg (*Preacher/Dr. Tramb/Major*) English/Theatre — senior — Rochester, MI
Kenya Payne (*Sarah*) Psychology — sophomore — Southfield, MI
Angela Malaika Peaks (*Tuta*) Communications/Theatre — senior — Southfield, MI
Sam Prince (*Pooky/Mouse*) English/Theatre — senior — Detroit, MI
Gerami Seitzman (*Lady In Black*) Biology — junior — Orchard Lake, MI
Tonya Warren (*Miss Lady*) Musical Theatre — junior — Detroit, MI

Musical Numbers

(First Movement)

Goodbye Porkpie Hat Charles Mingus
Dried Up Corncob Blues Dwight Andrews and OyamO
Just a Closer Walk With Thee Traditional
Old Black Joe Stephen Foster
Dixie Daniel Decatur Emmett
Come and Go to that Land Sam Cook
The Curse of Mora Traditional arr. by William Arms Fisher
Mop, Mop Coleman Hawkins
Lester Leaps In Lester Young
Polka Dots and Moonbeams James van Huesen and Johnny Burke
Ain't No Place Like the Open Road Dwight Andrews and OyamO

(Second Movement)

The Man I Love George and Ira Gershwin
God Bless the Child Billie Holiday and Arthur Herzog
Strange Fruit Lewis Allan
Detention Barracks Blues Lester Young

Acknowledgements

A special thanks to: Don Chisolm, Gratz Classic Cafe, Carty's Music, Stratford Festival Costume Shop, Dale Hudson, and Dwight Andrews for his kind permission to use his musical arrangements.

"The playwright wishes to acknowledge Jimmy Simpson, who was the original inspiration for writing this play"

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Musical Dramaturg: Arwulf Arwulf

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Point: Toni Auletti, Jennifer A. Bonin, Francesca Callow, Brandon Epland, Yasmin Etemadi, Derek Grouin, Heather McDonald, and students of T250
Props: Zadda Bazzi, Christopher French, Amber Hess, Sean Kinlin, Julie Strand, and students of T250, 251, and 351
Sets: Paul Collins, Lael Easton, Cecilia T. Grinwald, Jason Lievens, Warren Lehmkuhle, Stephanie Pascaris, Matt Pruitt, and students of T250
Hairstyles: Debra Winstead

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Ann Arbor Civic Theatre — MainStage —

CINDERELLA

Music by Richard Rogers,
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directed by Patricia A. Rector
The Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre
Dec. 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 1992

THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK

dramatization by Frances Goodrich
and Albert Hackett
directed by Cassie Mann
The Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre
Feb. 24, 25, 26, 27, 1993

MORNINGS AT SEVEN

by Paul Osborn
directed by Charles Sutherland
The Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre
April 7, 8, 9, 10, 1993

ON THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

book and lyrics by Betty Comden
and Adolph Green
music by Cy Coleman
based on a play by Ben Hecht
and Charles McArthur
and also a play by Bruce Milholland
directed by Jim Posante
The Power Center for the Performing
Arts
May 19, 20, 21, 22, 1993

MASTER HAROLD AND THE BOYS

by Athol Fugard
directed by Conrad Mason
The Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre
June 9, 10, 11, 12, 1993

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Ann Arbor Civic Theatre — Second Stage —

LES LIAISONS DANGEREUSES

(Dangerous Liaisons)
by Christopher Hampton
directed by Wendy Wright
November 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20,
21, 1992

BURN THIS

by Lanford Wilson
directed by Jan Koeneter
January 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30,
February 4, 5, 6, 1993

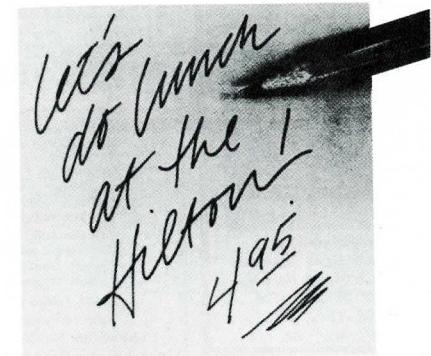
A MACBETH

by William Shakespeare
adapted by Charles Marowitz
directed by Dr. George Popovich
March 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27,
1993

BILOXI BLUES

by Neil Simon
directed by Tim Morley
July 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24,
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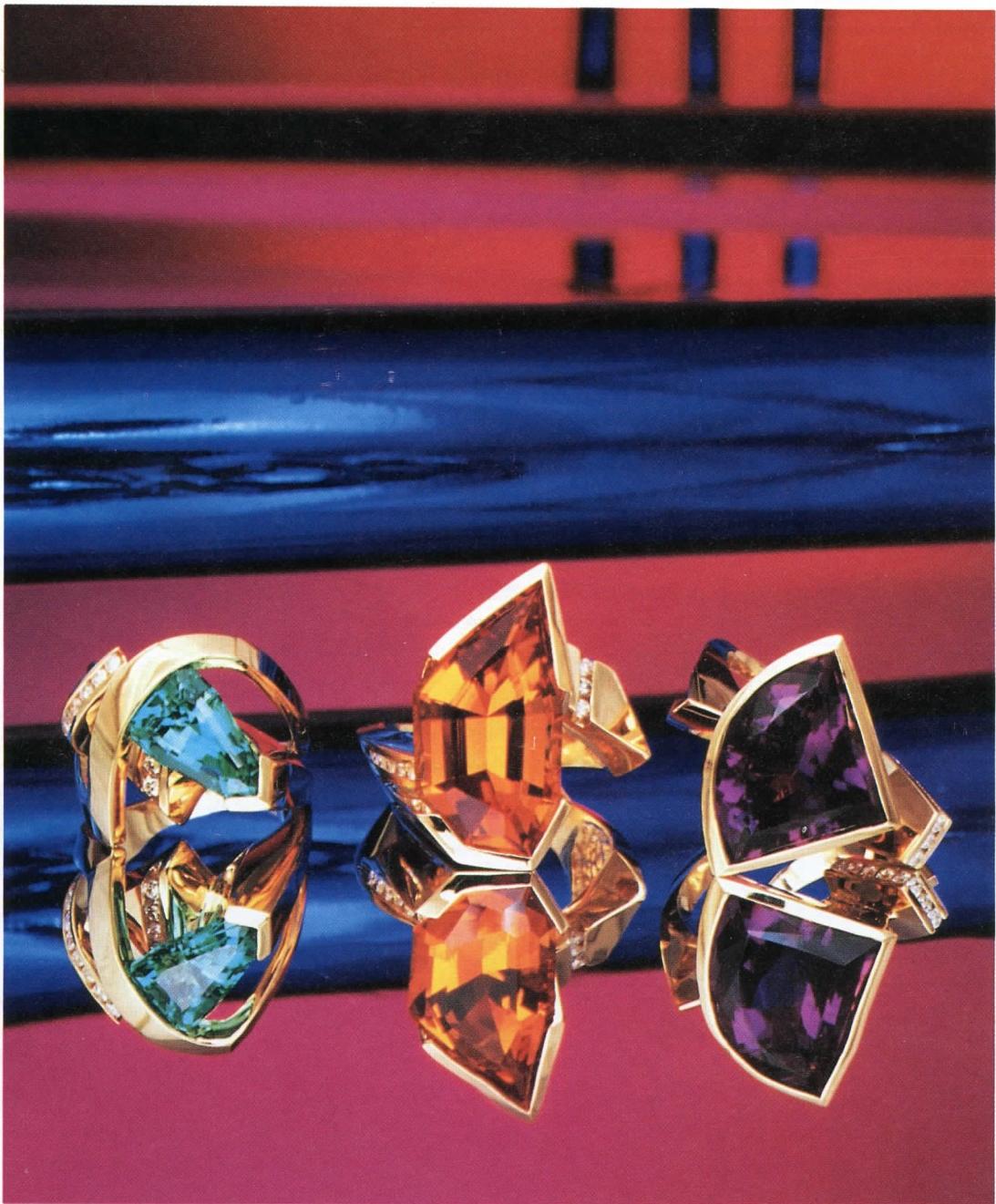
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